

## **Smart Phone Apps: Descriptions and Ratings by BTBL staff**

### **Blind-Droid Wallet by Oleg Taystruk**

OS: Android

Cost: Free

Rating: 4 stars

This app will identify U.S. currency denominations and tell you whether the front or back of the bill is facing up. It can lag for a moment before the bill is identified, possibly because of the sound effects and other options that are a part of the app. It has some customization options—for instance, you can change to a Euro identifier or have it not say which side of the bill is facing up, and it has a “tips and tricks” section which might be helpful. It also mistakenly told me that I had a five dollar bill when there was no bill in front of it. Overall a good app, but I preferred the IDEAL Currency Identifier by IDEAL Group, Inc.

Link for Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mirwebsistem.currencyeyes&hl=en>

### **ColorBlind Assist by osilabs LLC**

OS: Android

Cost: Free

Rating: 1 star

As a color identifier, this app leaves something to be desired. It only identifies red, blue, and green, and is very picky about lighting. It is best at identifying red, but once Talkback is enabled, the app does not recognize any colors at all.

Link for Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.osilabs.android.apps.cba&hl=en>

### **IDEAL Currency Identifier by IDEAL Group, Inc.**

OS: Android

Cost: Free

Rating: 5 stars

This app will identify U.S. currency denominations and tell you whether the front or back of the bill is facing up. It recognizes the bill quickly and accurately, but it will keep repeating the bill information until the camera is no longer pointed at the bill. Simple, straightforward, no frills.

Link for Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.ideal.currencyid&hl=en>

\*Note: this list was created 2/19/2015 and will be updated periodically. If you have an App you would like reviewed, please contact the library at 1-800-992-9012.\*

## **IVONA Text-to-Speech**

OS: Android

Cost: Free

Rating: 4 stars

Tired of having the same voice read to you all the time? IVONA allows you to download new voices for your screen reader which you may find more appealing. In addition to American English, you can also choose from different accents, such as British, Australian, and Welsh. If you're looking for a screen reader in a different language, there are also several other languages supported, including but not limited to Spanish, French, German, and Icelandic. These voices are free while in beta, and it is a little fun to be able to switch around how things sound. I was particularly fond of the Welsh English voice, Gwyneth.

Website: <http://www.ivona.com/>

Link for Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ivona.tts>

## **Magnify by Appd Lab**

OS: Android

Cost: Free

Rating: 4 stars

This app for low vision people could be very helpful for reading small text. You can take pictures to save information for later, or reverse the colors if that would make it easier to see what you're looking for.

Link for Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.appdlab.magnify&hl=en>

## **Reloj Ciego by ACES Android Development**

OS: Android

Cost: Free

Rating: 5 stars

Spanish for "Blind Watch," Reloj Ciego is an unobtrusive way to tell the time. If the app is open, a tap of the screen will cause your phone to vibrate the time—for example, if it is 2:08, it would have two short vibrations, one long vibration for the zero, and then eight short vibrations. If the program is running in the background, you can get it to tell you the time by shaking your phone as though you are fanning yourself three times. This app is fairly customizable.

Link for Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.blogspot.acesandroiddevelopment.relojciego&hl=en>

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### **Rock Lock by Eyes-Free Project**

OS: Android

Cost: Free

Rating: 0 stars

This is supposed to be an eyes-free music player, but every time I opened it, it crashed.

Link for Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.marvin.rocklock&hl=en>

### **ScanLife by Scanbuy, Inc.**

OS: Apple, Android, Windows phone, Blackberry

Cost: Free

Rating: 5 stars

This app scans the barcode on products, announces what the product is, and searches for where the product is sold nearby and which store has it for the best price, as well as customer reviews of the product. You can also share information to social media if you so desire. It can read barcodes pretty quickly, even on curved objects, so it would be helpful in identifying cans and boxes in your pantry, or CDs and DVDs, even if you don't want to use it to go bargain-hunting. It isn't perfect—when I scanned a bottle of Great Valu brand water, it thought that the barcode was for a case of vegan jerky—but other than that, it was quite accurate.

Website: <http://www.scanlife.com/>

Link for download: <http://www.scanlife.com/get-the-app>

### **Shades by Eyes-Free Project**

OS: Android

Cost: Free

Rating: 4 stars

This app can be used to lower screen brightness below the system minimum. It would be good for saving battery life or keeping your information private in public. It has a very simple interface.

Link for Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.googlecode.eyesfree.shades&hl=en>

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**Shazam by Shazam Entertainment Limited**

OS: Android, Apple

Cost: Free

Rating: 3 stars

This app identifies music or TV by listening to the audio. It can keep track of things you like, allow you to listen to or buy, or just give you more information about what's playing. It can also connect with social media if you want it to. While it is a neat concept and it is quite good at identifying what it hears, its layout is not ideal for use with a screen reader. I was using it with Talkback on my Android device, and there were lots of unlabeled buttons on the screen, so it would be very difficult to navigate and use all of the features without some vision.

Website: <http://www.shazam.com/>

Link for Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/app/shazam/id284993459>

Link for Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.shazam.android>

**Umano by SoThree, Inc.**

OS: Both Apple and Android

Cost: Free

Rating: 5 stars

Get news articles narrated by professional voice actors. This app allows you to add articles to your playlist for later, follow favorite narrators, and link up with your social media, if you so desire. Articles are narrated very quickly, so your news is always up-to-date. You can submit articles for narration and get notified when they are added. Some of the buttons are unlabeled, but navigation with a screen reader is still fairly straightforward.

Website: <https://umano.me/>

Link for Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/umano-listen-to-news-articles/id564125545?mt=8>

Link for Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sothree.umano&hl=en>

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